

School Immunization Requirements

Interpretation of immunization records for school entry can be confusing. The DPHHS Immunization Program wants to make this easier. To follow are some helpful guides along with a review of the Immunization Law Requirements for Montana Schools, as revised July 13, 2005. The reference for the following information is: School Immunization Rules; Section 16.28.702. The source is: The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Immunization Program 444-5580.

PLEASE NOTETHE BLUE IMMUNIZATION FORM- -# HES-101
MUST FOLLOW THE PUPIL FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL - -IT'S THE LAW--
(PHOTO COPIES ARE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ON AN INTERIM BASIS)***

FOR SCHOOL ENTRY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ARE

VACCINE	TOTAL NUMBER	ADDITIONAL DOSE REQUIREMENTS
Polio	3 doses, and	At least 1 dose after the 4 th birthday
DTP/DT/ DTaP/Td	4 doses, and	One dose must be given after the 4 th birthday
Tdap/Td booster	1 dose	Prior to entering the 7 th grade a pupil must receive a dose of Td containing vaccine. This schedule applies to pupils who have completed the prior 4 doses listed above.
MMR	Dose 1 on or after the first birthday and dose 2 prior to kindergarten entry (1 st grade in schools without kindergarten)	A pupil entering any grade from 7 to 12 who has not already received the 2 required doses at kindergarten age must receive the second dose.

Polio: The primary series of polio vaccine (OPV or IPV), consists of three doses given at least 4 weeks (28 days) apart. The same dose requirements apply to both OPV and IPV or if a combination of both are used.

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP, DTaP): Prior to school entry, children less than 7 years of age are required to have proof of having received at least four doses of any combination of DTP/DTaP or DT vaccines. One dose must have been given on/after the fourth birthday. Children that received DT vaccine must have a medical exemption for the pertussis (whooping cough) component of the vaccine.

Tdap/Td: Prior to entering grade 7, children must receive a dose of tetanus and diphtheria containing vaccine (Tdap is preferred to provide protection against whooping cough or pertussis). The following criteria should be evaluated: 1) a 5 year interval must have passed since the previous dose of DTP/DTaP/DT or Td; 2) the child must be 11 years of age or older; 3) if dose #3 of Td was given at 7 years of age or older, a booster dose prior to grade 7 is not required.

Measles, mumps or rubella: Date given must be on or after the first birthday. A **second dose is required at school entry,** and is required at 7th grade if the pupil did not receive a second dose prior to kindergarten or 1st grade in schools without kindergarten.

Immunization records, recorded on the "Blue form", must show month, day and year.

Beginning with pupils entering a Montana school for the first time during, or after, the 2005-2006 school year, a copy of the adequate documentation must be attached to the "Blue form", (HES-101)

If a child has not completed the minimum vaccination series required by Montana Law, a Conditional Attendance Form, No. HES 103-1B should be completed and attached to the Blue immunization Form (HES-101). If the pupil has received at least one or more doses of the required vaccine(s), he/she can conditionally attend until the next dose is due. In order to remain in school, the pupil must continue to receive all remaining doses as specified on the conditional form. If the pupil fails to complete the immunization(s) within the time period indicated, he/she must either qualify for and claim an exemption or be excluded immediately from school by the school administrator or that person's designee.

The school law allows exemptions for medical reasons. For medical contraindications, parents need to have the back of the blue immunization form (HES-101) completed and signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States or Canada, (MD or DO) specifying the reason and duration of the medical exemption. See the accompanying "Medical Exemption for Required Immunizations" sheet for qualifying physician information. Consult with your local public health nurse or the state Immunization Program if you have questions about this exemption.

The law also allows for exemptions, if immunizations are contrary to the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian. A claim of exemption on religious grounds must be notarized each year on an affidavit provided by the department.

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